

Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee
4141 N. Third Street - Phoenix AZ 85012
October 22, 2008 – 11:00 a.m.
Arizona State Veteran Home, Room A107

M I N U T E S

Committee Members Present

John Aldecoa
Marcos Andrade (phone)
Joe Bibich
Paul Clark
Carol Culbertson
George Cushing
Kathy Pearce (phone)
Jody Reidenhour

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Col. Joey Strickland, Director
Dave Hampton, Legislative Liaison/PIO
Diane D'Angelo, Outreach Coordinator

Absent

Mike Klier
Randy Meyer

Other Attendees

Jeff Dollins, Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order

Committee Chair Joe Bibich called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. Newly appointed Committee Member Paul Clark was introduced to the group.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 8, 2008 open meeting were approved as written. Col. Strickland left the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Executive Session

The Committee went into Executive Session at 11:07 a.m., and returned to Open Session at 11:24 a.m.

Recommendations

In the matter of MFRF applicant Elana Brown, the Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee recommends non-approval based on the Committee's understanding of the statute as written. Commissioner Pearce left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Donation Fund and Promotional Campaign Update

Diane D'Angelo reported that as of Oct. 22, we've received \$99,916 in donations. Up to 90 percent of donations are expected the last week of December, so this is a good sign.

On November 5th, Bashas' will promote MFRF throughout the state with advertising that will reach 1.65 million Arizonans. Eight Arizona food purveyors will donate \$1 from each item sold up to \$50,000. Bashas' will make up any differences, so we have a \$50,000 guarantee.

MFRF was prominently featured at the Governor's Tucson Military Roundtable on Oct. 6.

Ms. D'Angelo promoted MFRF at the Nucleus Club Oct. 15.

On November 8, she will at the Foundation for Senior Living "Caregiver Boot Camp" at 12th and Thomas. Committee members are welcome to attend.

Congressman Harry Mitchell's office secured a MFRF appearance at Tempe PEO luncheon in Tempe on November 11.

Col. Strickland re-entered the meeting 11:45 a.m.

Election of Officers for 2009

The following individuals were nominated and elected to MFRFAC positions:

- Committee Chair: Joe Bibich
- Vice Chair: Randy Meyer
- Secretary: George Cushing
- Treasurer: John Aldecoa

MFRF Legislation for 2009 Session

Dave Hampton joined the meeting at 11:50 am. Several Committee members voiced the concern that the 2009 legislation be broadened to serve more families. Committee Chair Bibich stated that he would like to have the fund available for the families of active duty service members and parents of married service members.

MFRF Rules Update

Assistant Attorney General Jeff Dollins told the Committee that an initial draft of the Rules is being prepared for a courtesy review by the Governor's Regulatory Review Committee. The only substantive change is the addition of an appeals process. Committee Member Reidenhour explained common scenarios faced by families that are currently not covered by the statute as written.

Col. Strickland discussed the parameters of a similar fund in Louisiana.

Mr. Hampton noted that the new legislation must be submitted to the Governor's office by November 17. He added that current State House Speaker and possible State Senator Russell Pearce will be the bill's likely sponsor.

A decision was made to call another meeting on Monday, October 27th to craft the Committee's recommendations for the new legislation as well as revisions to the current Committee bylaws.

Committee Members Reidenhour and Andrade left the meeting at 12:37. As there was no longer a quorum, the meeting ended at that time.